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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE SECTION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ARMY
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For Period
25 August to 31 August
1946

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

SECTION I

WELFARE

Public Assistance

A report on Public Assistance for the month of July 1946, covering 36 prefectures, was received from the Welfare Ministry. The complete report will be forwarded upon receipt of the Public Assistance reports from the 10 remaining prefectures. The report for 36 prefectures is as follows:

Number individual persons assisted	1,715,773
Total grants	¥36,094,218
Receipts (refunds on relief grants)	¥ 89,311
Net grants	¥36,004,907

Waifs in Tokyo-To

Temporary waif Intake Stations in each ward (36 wards in all) have been established to expedite the handling of waifs and plans are underway to establish one or more permanent Intake Stations, to adequately handle waifs during the winter months.

The Welfare Bureau, Tokyo-To "pick-up report" on vagrants for the period 29 July 1946 to 28 August 1946 is as follows: Number of vagrants picked up - 787 (Adults - 420; children - 367). The waifs, after emergency care at Intake Station (hair cut, bath, medical aid, cholera inoculation, clean clothes) are sent to Tokyo-To Yoikuin for further case study. They are then placed in orphanages and every attempt is being made to effect adoption or child placement. Increased interest by the Welfare Ministry and Tokyo-To Welfare Bureau, in the field of vagrant care, is in evidence and improvements are noted.

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Tokyo-To Yoikuin (Poor House)

The Chief of Protection, Tokyo-To Yoikuin, stated that the institution is now receiving increased amounts of supplemental food, soap, powdered and canned milk. This is in compliance with recommendations transmitted to the Welfare Ministry on 9 August 1946.

The staff of this institution has been very cooperative in an effort to raise the standards of institutional care. This is particularly commendable considering the inadequate supplies and equipment that have been available.

Relief Commodities (supplemental)

The 1,200,000 candy bars that were to be distributed by the Material Section, Welfare Ministry (reference PH&W Weekly Bulletin, 18 August to 24 August 1946) as supplemental relief were withheld due to irregularities of relief figures.

A new Schedule of Distribution was drawn up and the candy is now being distributed in conformity with the following corrected distribution plan:

Tokyo	199,000 bars
Kanagawa	201,000 bars
Osaka	396,000 bars
Aichi	100,000 bars
Kyoto	174,000 bars
Hyogo	130,000 bars

Red Cross

Miss Lisette M. Anderson, special representative Civilian Relief, American Red Cross, has been assigned to the Red Cross Liaison Section, Welfare Division, to assist in reorganization of chapters of the Japanese Red Cross and development of the Japanese Junior Red Cross.

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SECTION II

ADMINISTRATION OF HOSPITALS

The Japanese Civilian Hospital Strength Report shows 3092 hospitals with a bed capacity of 209,978 beds, 120,259 of which are occupied. For the same period, 295,668 out-patients were treated.

SECTION III

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

General

A field trip was made to Tokyo College of Agriculture and Forestry for the purpose of surveying the Veterinary School. Middle School graduates are admitted and the course is three years in length. The instruction is largely didactic and there is a shortage of books and instructional equipment.

Reports from Japanese

Animal Disease Report. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Animal Disease Section, reported the following new outbreaks of disease during the period 25-31 August 1946.

<u>Prefecture</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>
Fukuoka	Anthrax	1
Oita	Anthrax	2

SECTION IV

DENTAL AFFAIRS

Income for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1946 from all sources for the eight dental schools in Japan amounted to ¥7,741,893.63. Expenditures for a like period amounted to ¥546,972.36.

The cost per year per student is ¥960.

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SECTION V

NURSING AFFAIRS

Lessons on Nursery Procedures are being translated into Japanese for the Nurses. Permission has been requested from the Florida State Department of Health to use parts of the Manual on Midwifery for reprinting in Japan. Several chapters of the Manual are being translated from English into Japanese, pending approval for reprinting.

SECTION VI

SUPPLY

Distribution

An additional shipment of hospital supplies and 50,000 pounds of DDT insecticide powder was dispatched to Hulutao, Manchuria thus satisfying all current medical requirements for processing and caring for repatriates at that port.

Visit to three (3) National Hospitals in the Tokyo area revealed that excess medical supplies had not been entirely removed and turned over to prefectural officials for distribution. Action is being taken by both the Welfare Ministry and local officials to expedite the removal of excess supplies from these hospitals.

Production

All pyrethrum emulsion produced for the mosquito and fly control program has been distributed throughout Japan. Approximately 1,811,000 gallons were produced and distributed.

A study of Japanese requirements for absorbent cotton, gauze and bandages has been made and quantities necessary to maintain minimum health standards for 1 year have been determined. Approximately 45,000 bales of

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cotton will be required to accomplish necessary production.

A large quantity of antu (rat poison) has been produced and distribution has started. All major ports and large cities will be given priority on distribution now in progress. Approximately 4,100,000 3-gram packages will be produced and distributed by 25 September. This product will not be sold on the open market. Retail drug dealers' associations in each prefecture will allot quantities to neighborhood associations and the neighborhood associations will collect payment from individuals. Continuous production and distribution will be effected.

Narcotics

Eight defendants were sentenced to penal servitude for periods ranging from 4 months to 5 years in Tokyo District Court on 26 August 1946 for violation of the Japanese narcotic laws. Procurators are being admonished to demand prison sentences rather than fines for violators, since only by the imposition of heavy penalties, which act as deterrents, will Japanese officials be able to properly enforce the narcotic laws.

Since the completion of registration of all narcotic dealers in July 1946, a survey of stocks of narcotic retailers, practitioners and hospitals has been undertaken by Japanese officials as directed by SCAP Narcotic Control Officers. Any unopened packages of narcotics in excess of a six to eight month's supply for the particular dealer are being reported to the Minister of Welfare who will direct that such excess stocks be sold, as provided for in the new narcotic regulations, to a local wholesale dealer. As a result of this action narcotic stocks will be accumulated in wholesale houses and will be made available to all regularly licensed dealers.

Inspections of narcotic stocks of two national hospitals by SCAP Narcotic Control Officers and Japanese prefectural narcotic inspectors revealed

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these hospitals were holding a ten to twelve year supply of some narcotic items. Action was taken to rectify this situation, as outlined in the preceding paragraph, minimizing loss of narcotics through some form of diversion or by fire or theft.

SECTION VII

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Cholera

There appears to be some diminution in the incidence of cholera in the country as a whole, although sporadic cases are still being reported from new areas where it had not previously been reported.

A summary report was received from the Welfare Ministry, giving the following data for cholera, as of 23 August 1946.

Cases (confirmed)	739
Suspects	92
Carriers	196

Anthrax

A report was received of 42 cases of human anthrax, with six deaths, in Fukuoka-ken. These were in addition to a number of cases in animals. All cases occurred during the month of July and no cases have been reported since 30 July 1946.

Insect and Rodent Control

A final conference was held with Mr. Harold F. Gray, Consultant to the Secretary of War and at present in Japan with the Virus Commission on mosquito abatement. Mr. Gray presented his final report and recommendations to members of this Division, the Virus Commission and representatives of the Welfare Ministry. Several lines of experimentation were agreed upon for the coming year.

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Venereal Disease Control Activities

The acting Division Chief accompanied the Venereal Disease Control Officer, Tokyo Area, Provost Marshal's Office during recent raids and observed technique and procedures used by the Metropolitan Police in apprehending and interrogating infected females and holding them for examination.

SECTION VIII

VITAL STATISTICS

On 27 August 1946, the Cabinet Bureau of Statistics submitted to SCAP, its first monthly report of vital statistics. This was in compliance with Part 1. of the Plan for Collecting Current Vital Statistics, which was approved by SCAPIN 975-A, on 12 April 1946, to become effective on 1 July 1946.

There are approximately 11,000 local government offices which receive reports of birth, death, stillbirth, marriage and divorce in Japan. Part 1. of the Plan provides for a monthly summary report by each local office of births, deaths and stillbirths by sex, and, in the case of deaths, a tabulation of deaths in two age groups; infants under one year, and all others.

On the tenth of each month, the mayor of each city, or head of each ward, town or village, forwards the monthly summary report, on standard forms provided by the Cabinet Bureau of Statistics by the twentieth of the month. This office compiles a monthly report for all declarations made in Japan during the preceeding month, and submits a monthly report to SCAP.

During July, 161,871 births were reported. In comparison to the last available figures for July of 1943, this represents a reduction of approxi-

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mately 5 percent. On the other hand, there were 133,506 deaths reported, an increase of more than 30 percent. It is interesting to note that the number of deaths of infants under one year (11,977) declined 24 percent below the last available figure, which was for 1942. Stillbirths (7,245) decreased 14 percent below the last available figure in 1941. Marriages totalled 43,866, a decrease of more than 18 percent below the 1943 figure. The number of divorces reported was 8,067. Monthly figures for recent years are not available, but in 1938, there were 3281 divorces reported. The 1946 figure therefore, is almost 146 percent greater than that reported eight years previously, the last available figure, notwithstanding the fact that the population increase over that period was less than 5 per cent.

The figures reported for the month of July 1946 are provisional and represent what is reported during the month. The event need not necessarily have taken place during the same month as the month represented by the report. However, the number of delayed registrations generally balances itself from month to month. This would not be true for births occurring in December however, because the Japanese practice of considering an infant as being one year old at the time of birth, would make an infant born on the last day of December, two years old on the first day of January of the following year is frequently practiced. There is another reason for this practice, which is based on the superstitious belief that a child born in the month of January is considered to lucky.

Infant deaths in this monthly report are not based upon the Japanese practice of estimating age, but upon European age. Therefore, they are comparable to figures used in American practice.

Although the increase in deaths (all ages) may have been expected, it may also have been expected that the number of infant deaths would

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rise, rather than decline sharply. It is true that the number of births have decreased, but the number of infant deaths decreased proportionately much more. It will be necessary to observe several monthly reports, before definite conclusions can be drawn on infant mortality.

The decrease in the number of marriages from that recorded in 1943 is understandable, but the reason for the sharp increase in divorces is not clear. However, it is possible that current proposals to revise the marriage laws which may make it possible for the wife to sue the husband for infidelity, definitely concerns the practice of maintaining concubines. Husbands, in order to avoid such suits, may be obtaining divorces in anticipation of the passage of such laws. Most of the divorces at the present item are obtained by mutual consent and not by court action.

SECTION IX

DIRECTIVES TO THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

AG 053 (28 Aug 46)PH&W, (SCAPIN-2080-A) Subj: "Amendment to Plan for Collecting Current Vital Statistics." Due to progress being made by the Japanese Government on the Plan for Collecting Current Vital Statistics, the date for completion has been advanced from January 1947 to 1 October 1946.

AG 400 (30 Aug 46)PH, (SCAPIN-1169) Subj: "Receipt and Distribution of Relief from Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia." This directive confirms the Japanese Governments' verbal acceptance of the offer of relief supplies from LARA and outlines the necessary administrative procedures.

J. U. Weaver
J. U. WEAVER

Colonel, Medical Corps,
Deputy Chief, Public Health & Welfare Section.

2 Incls:

- #1 - Communicable Disease Report for week ending 17 August 1946.
- #2 - Venereal Disease Report for week ending 10 August 1946.

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Inclosures missing

